

Remarks/Arguments

The Objection to the Specification Under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o)

The Examiner objected to the specification under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o) for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the recitation of: "said members pivoting in a plane substantially coplanar with said portion of said vessel hull" in Claims 1 and 15.

Applicant respectfully submits that as described in the reply of May 3, 2005, the above orientation of the rotational plane for the members is shown in each of the figures. In particular, the perspective view of Figures 7A-7C and the detail of Figures 16A-16D show the members rotating substantially coplanarly with respect to the portion of the hull formed by the truss assembly. However, in the interest of expediting examination, Applicant has added new paragraph [00028B] providing further support for the above recitation of a coplanar plane, based on the figures in the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended specification is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o) and requests that the objection be removed.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 7-12, 15, 19, and 21-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 7-12, 15, 19, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,110,281 (Buck).

Claims 2-4, 13, 16-18 and 27 were objected to *infra* as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 16 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 1 and 15, respectively and has cancelled Claims 1 and 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1 and 15 is moot and Claims 2 and 16 are allowable. Claims 5, 9, and 11-13; and 19, 23, and 25-27 have been modified to depend from Claims 2 and 16, respectively. Therefore, Claims 5, 7-12; and 19, and 21-26 depend directly or indirectly from Claims 2 and 16,

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respectively, and also are allowable. Applicant courteously requests that the rejections be removed. Applicants does not intend to give rise to a presumption of surrender.

The Rejection of Claims 6 and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,110,281 (Buck) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,499,594 (Bullock).

Claims 2-4, 13, 16-18 and 27 were objected to *infra* as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 16 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 1 and 15, respectively. Therefore, Claims 2 and 16 are patentable over Buck and Bullock. Claims 6 and 20 depend indirectly from Claims 2 and 16, respectively. Therefore, Claims 6 and 20 also are patentable over Buck and Bullock. Applicant courteously requests that the rejections be removed. Applicant does not intend to give rise to a presumption of surrender.

The Objection of Claims 2-4, 13, 16-18 and 27 as Being Dependent Upon a Rejected Base Claim

Claims 2-4, 13, 16-18 and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

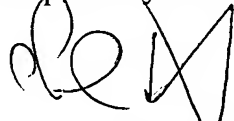
Applicant has amended Claims 2-4 and 16-18 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 1 and 15, respectively and has cancelled Claims 1 and 15. Therefore, Claims 2-4 and 16-18 are allowable. Applicant has amended Claims 13 and 27 to depend from Claims 2 and 16, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claims 13 and 27 are allowable. Applicant courteously requests that the objections be removed. Applicant does not intend to give rise to a presumption of surrender.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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